

### Parks

Parks operations maintained more than 2,400 acres of public lands in 2009. This maintenance included 1,510 acres of turf, 240 acres of which are irrigated athletic fields and 930 acres of wooded or undeveloped public property. The division continued to provide a variety of outdoor recreation services as well as facility support for youth and adult sport organizations and other Park divisions and community event sponsors. Facilities under the stewardship of the Parks operations included 14 picnic shelters, 2 swimming pools and a beach, 50 softball and baseball fields, 14 volleyball courts, 26 soccer and football fields, 2 disc golf courses, 1 lighted cross country skiing course, 8 skating rinks, 26 miles of biking and hiking trails, 76 playgrounds, 40 tennis and basketball courts, 2 animal exercise areas and a skate park.



Liatris at Homestead Park Prairie

### Parks 2009 Highlights

- ◆ Fleet radio system replaced with 800 MHz
- ◆ Security lighting installed East Park
- ◆ Display kiosk constructed at Quarry Hill cemetery
- ◆ Department provided facility and production assistance for:
  - Rochesterfest
  - Pridefest
  - Polar Plunge
  - WinterFest
  - Arbor Day
  - Arts Strollathon
  - AHA Tour
  - Bicycle across Minnesota Tour
  - Community 4<sup>th</sup> July Celebration
  - Peace Plaza Events
  - Cardboard Box City
  - Litter Bit Better
  - Riverside Concerts
  - Thursdays on First
  - Rochester Triathlon
  - Rochester Water Show
- ◆ Land exchange at The Gardens Park completed
- ◆ RCTC-City use agreement for sport complexes extended
- ◆ Hart Farm South Park entrance path installed
- ◆ Park Operations Center remodeled
- ◆ Quarry Hill Nature Center west roof replaced



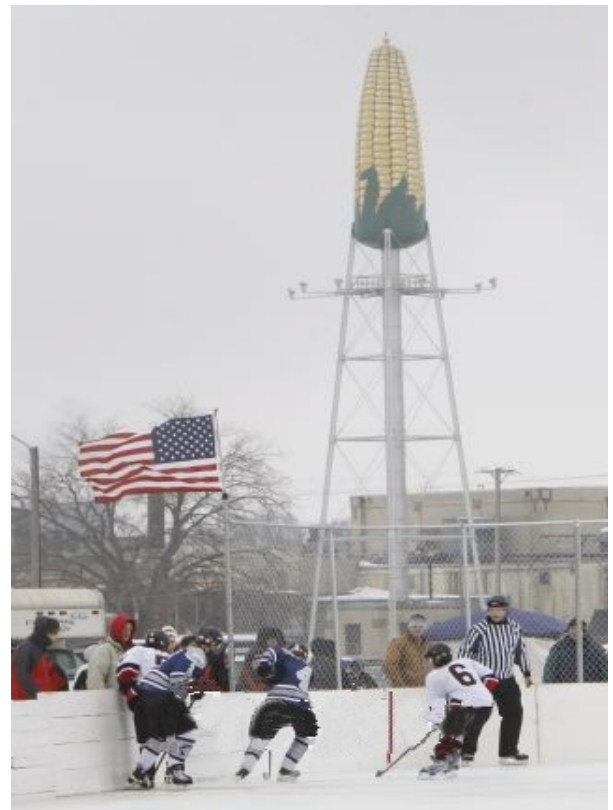
Mayor Brede Welcoming Bicycle Across Minnesota Participants



International Kite Flying Jamboree at Faud Soccer Complex

## Parks 2009 Highlights cont.

- ♦ Park signs installed at Eastwood, Soldier's Field, Slatterly and Cooke Parks
- ♦ Trail and park maps revised and posted department web site
- ♦ Badger Hills entrance path installed
- ♦ City began operation and maintenance of TH 52 irrigation systems
- ♦ Rochester Active Sport Club continues construction and maintenance of Essex trails
- ♦ Kepp Park master plan completed
- ♦ Plaza and walks around Cooke Park shelter replaced
- ♦ Kutzky Park shelter renovated
- ♦ Trail sign installed Cascade Lake
- ♦ Recycling containers set at major sport complexes
- ♦ Two ice rinks installed Graham Park (Fairgrounds)
- ♦ Board approves Exchange Club shrine for Soldier's Field
- ♦ Slatterly Park shelter renovated
- ♦ Plaza and railings replaced at Adventure Playground in Silver Lake Park
- ♦ Trail thru Southern Woods Park installed by Public Works
- ♦ Installed steel roof on McQuillian concession building
- ♦ Mayo Field site of 130 baseball games / Hudson Field 105 games
- ♦ Park facilities used to host the following events in 2009:
  - Senior Softball USA Northern Championships
  - ASA Northern Fastpitch National Tournament
  - ASA Men's DD State Softball Tournament
  - MN Park Supervisors Annual Conference
  - World Softball League Midwest Classic
  - NJCAA Division III National Fastpitch Championship
  - Minnesota State High School League Sec 1A, 1AA, 1AAA Baseball



Inaugural Rochester Hockey Day  
at Graham Park Outdoor Rinks



## Forestry

The Forestry operations were responsible for the management of Rochester's comprehensive urban tree and landscape program. The program is responsible for the control of shade tree diseases such as Dutch elm disease and Oak Wilt, reforestation of city parks and boulevards, and routine maintenance of the City's 49,387 boulevard and 30,000 park trees. The division continued to administer the city's tall grass and weed ordinance, maintained the City's extensive recreational trail system, many of the city's landscaped areas and was once again charged with the maintenance of the CBD streetscape and seasonal decorations.



Citizen Forester Training Class

## Forestry 2009 Highlights

- ◆ Constructed Peace Plaza sod nursery
- ◆ Co-hosted Rochester Arbor Day
- ◆ Rochester named Tree City USA 27 years / Growth Award 5 years
- ◆ 762 boulevard and park trees removed
- ◆ Hosted 7<sup>th</sup> Annual SE MN Arborist Workshop
- ◆ 292 private property Dutch Elm Diseased trees removed
- ◆ 620 trees and 755 prairie plants and shrubs were planted / 215 permits issued
- ◆ 551 tall grass / weed violation notices sent
- ◆ Forestry personnel trimmed 4,281 boulevard and park trees
- ◆ Received \$50,000 Emerald Ash Borer reduction grant



Prairie Burn at Schmidt Park

## Flood Control

The flood control maintenance operations maintained the channel corridor and reservoirs to allow the passage of flood events minimizing damage to homes and businesses and to maintain the pathways, amenities and lands adjacent to the reservoirs, Zumbro River, Bear Creek, Cascade Creek, Willow Creek and Silver Creek. No significant flooding events occurred in 2009. In 2009 the Parks, Forestry and Flood Control operations maintained 18 miles of recreational trail, 450 decorative light fixtures, 4,900 trees and shrubs and mowed 155 acres of turf.



Silver Creek Reservoir Parking Lot

## Flood Control 2009 Highlights

- ♦ Silver Creek Reservoir (SR-2) parking lot completed
- ♦ Boy Scout Reservoir (BR4) parking lot completed and archery range installed
- ♦ Initiated hay harvest at KR6 reservoir

